

MESA Worldwide



A NEWSLETTER OF MESA, A DISTRICT 6600 PROJECT, #17

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2007
Findlay Ford, 4 PM

Highlights of the January 9th Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Forty-one clubs have contributed \$10,575 to MESA so far this fiscal year. Special contributions have been received from 18 clubs, mainly for the Bike Tour, amounting to \$27,896.40. The average per member contribution for the District is \$9.28. Clubs leading the way with \$25/member or over are: Bowling Green, Findlay, Findlay Flag City, Elyria, Elyria Sunrise, and Oberlin.

Personnel: The Trustees named Steve Day to replace Abe Kuttathara on the MESA Trustee Board.

Director of Operation: Defiance is buying an ambulance for Honduras.

Timothy moved and Riggle seconded the motion to spend an additional \$1,500 for Rotaractors to go to Uniendo. The motion passed, with three opposed. The Rotaractors will take four computers with Spanish keyboards.

Uniendo: Twenty are going. MESA will have a display with brochures. Suggested that participants take a wheelchair, school supplies, used tennis balls, candy, socks (Chuck) and/or baseball caps (plenty in warehouse) to give away. Ron will supply a list of clubs and contact names from clubs with whom we have been partners for participants (Jack's suggestion). Chuck plans to meet with Food for the Poor at Uniendo.

Wishing Star benefit: 100% of the \$60 ticket charge goes to the children's hospital (30 beds). Budget is about \$100,000, with the majority raised at the March 3 benefit. Nubia, the Director of WS will be coming, as will two women from the First Lady's office. Tickets can be purchased from Jim Shrader.

Editor's note: Highlights taken from Judy Riggle's minutes.

Fundraising: Findlay Ford and the Findlay Rotary Club are sponsoring their 11th Annual fundraiser for MESA and Wishing Star on March 3rd. Doors open at 5 P.M. to food, entertainment and merriment. Purchase price of \$60.00 will entitle you to all the evening's events and entry into the raffle that features a grand prize of \$5000.00.

A wide variety of finger foods, featured at our national baseball parks will be served. For example there will be crab cakes (Baltimore) buffalo-wings (Pittsburgh), cheese-steak (Philadelphia) and deep-dish pizza (Chicago) to only mention a few: along with the chocolate fountain and fruits and vegetables for those watching their waistline.

Brainstorming Retreat, Part II

On February 10th, DG Dave Perkins lead our second Retreat designed to re-evaluate the mission and future direction of MESA. During the first retreat, in December, ideas and concepts were developed to determine MESA's **Mission, Vision and Value** statements. Key words and ideas were assigned to each statement (Mission, Vision or Value), and it was at the second meeting that these ideas were digested and further refined. Breaking into groups we developed several new suggested Mission and Value statements for MESA.

Also as a result of the initial meeting, 61 different strategic actions were recommended for MESA. Once again breaking into groups, we were challenged to recombine, rearrange and redefine these recommendations into a logical format for the conduct of future MESA activities.

The last item of business was the formation of a committee that would finalize all our ideas into one package that would then be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

If you would like to be part of this continuing process please come to our next MESA meeting on March 13th.

Meet Your New MESA Director of Operations



Retiring from the Lima Army Tank Plant 5 years ago, Gary Davis has been helping out his elderly parents and working for a neighboring farmer in and around Bloomdale, Ohio, (10 miles north of Findlay in southern Wood county) where he has lived since 1976. But when Gary read the advertisement in the Findlay newspaper for a warehouse manager he immediately knew he was the man for the job.

It wasn't just his experiences at the Tank Plant that he felt prepared him to be the new MESA Operations Director. It all started at Fostoria High School where he worked in the cafeteria in order to earn his own lunch. Lucky for Gary, that working with him in the school cafeteria was Cynthia, his future wife of 38 years and lifelong companion.

After school Gary joined the Navy and worked on a minesweeper, the USS Epping Forest that was home ported in Sasebo Japan. While in the Navy, Gary was a Machinist Mate working in the Engineering Dept. where he was responsible for maintaining the main engines and ordering parts. He also volunteered for various opportunities (that's what the Navy called it) one of which was on a wood 36-foot long wood boat (non-magnetic), with crew of 4, going up the rivers and tributaries in Vietnam. He was hunting for mines that the Vietcong would send down the rivers to destroy our ships anchored in the harbors. Gary also visited some exotic ports such as Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Manila. After 2 1/2 years on that ship he was transferred to the USS Yorktown a WW2 aircraft carrier home ported on the West coast. He even got the chance to play an extra in the war movie "Toro Toro Toro" that was being filmed off the coast of California. The ship also picked up one of the Apollo capsules off the coast of the Christmas Islands. His ship then

changed homeports to the East coast, traveling around South America and stopping over in Chile and Brazil, before heading on to Virginia.

His Navy days over, Gary returned to Fostoria, Ohio where he was born and raised, married Cynthia and started working for the Eltra Corporation Foundry in the Purchasing Dept., which was eventually bought out by Chrysler Corp. After Chrysler closed the Fostoria Foundry he went to Lima, Ohio where the US Army Tank Plant was being upgraded for the manufacturing of the Abrams Army Tank, primarily working in the shipping and receiving areas of the plant. The last few years before retirement he also worked in the Final Inspection Department as a test driver for the tanks that rolled off the assembly line.

In his free time he enjoys skeet and trap shooting, riding the family horses and working on any of his 5 old cars. He and Cynthia have a daughter, one grandson 15, and a 9 year old granddaughter. Being on the job since February 1st, Gary is starting the process of learning the job of Operations Director. His prior experience, both military and civilian, should serve him well as he starts his new career. We all wish him well and will support him in his efforts to meet the goals of MESA.

Gary Davis and Mel Honig

Belize Literacy Program, Year 4

By Father Bob Haas

We had 21 go to Belize from Jan 2nd – 16th to rehab the St Martin de Porres School in Blackman Eddy, Belize. Although we did not finish a few of our outdoor projects due to the prolonged rainy season we did-

- Completely rehab the school by installing all new electrical ceiling fans, lights and wall sockets
- Repair for a new computer lab,
- Paint the whole school inside and out
- Make and install chalk boards, bulletin boards and bookcases
- Put in two sidewalks.
- Build a sheltered area so children could eat out of the sun and rain
- Divide one classroom into a library and principal's office; and
- Gave all newly repainted desks and chairs for both students and teachers.

Besides work on the rehab project we also gave \$250.00 for a school lunch program, \$400.00 for wood to complete an addition on the San Antonio village school, provided National Geographic magazines for all 12 secondary and 60 elementary schools in the Cayo District. We also provided \$1680.00 in tuition assistance for two families and contributed an additional \$16,000.00 for the rehab project. We were later surprised to find out at the San Ignacio Rotary Meeting that the Ministry of Education also gave \$7500.00 toward the rehab project.

Most of the team of 21 arrived on Jan 2, with some arriving early and others a day or two later. This first day was spent getting to know each other and assigning general instructions for our work project.

On Wednesday the 3rd, right after breakfast, we went to the site of St Martin de Porres School. The school had been will prepared with all the furniture moved to the community center down the road. Even the old wiring had been removed so all the new wiring with fans, lights and wall sockets could more efficiently be installed. Insulation had been sprayed on the ceilings, and we were ready for work. The first few hours we scraped insulation off the floor, laid out the tools and supplies and organized work tasks. A sidewalk from the front of the school to the highway was laid out as well as the foundation for the shelter. We could not plan additional work on the shelter because the metal framework had not been cut yet. It was also decided to divide one of the classrooms into the library and the principal's office.

In two days we had most of the wiring in and painting done. That Saturday and Sunday, when some of the local Rotarians were able to join us, we decided to also paint the exterior of the building. The material for the shelter arrived that day and I was amazed that our partial crew (9 members had returned to Ohio that day) was able to raise the shelter framework. Unfortunately I don't think any one got a picture of the raising.

By Friday of the second week all the electrical fixtures were in place and operating, the school painted inside and out, the shelter erected with a gravel pad underneath. There was even a nice gravel area around the front walk. The final touch was providing the new teacher and student desks.

The remaining days were spent rededicating the school at a special Mass and reception, enjoying a relaxing Sunday. During these few days we also went on a cave visit via canoe; visited the Mayan ruins at Xanatinuch; and also a visit to the Belizean National Zoo.

Plans for next year include rehabbing Calla Creek Holy Cross School; asking the Ministry of Education to build several new classrooms; add a toilet block, provide national Geographic magazines to all 12 secondary schools and perhaps the 58 elementary schools in the Cayo District; participating in the two week teachers' training workshop at Sacred heart College in August; and sending 1000+ school desks to Belize.

Thanks to all who worked and contributed to a very successful updating of yet another school in Belize; especially to Chris Aird, San Ignacio Rotarian and Mark Chase, team member from New London who coordinated the work and turned a diverse crew of teenagers and septuagenarians into a rather efficient rehab crew.

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